



Happy New Year!



This Month's Program:

"Swearing in of Officers and Board Members"

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Presidents Message

Hello Everyone,

I certainly hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year Holiday season. I know that I did. Perhaps Santa brought you a nice coin this year. I'm pretty sure he didn't leave any coal for anyone at the UNS.....

I'm excited about the New Year & the opportunities to grow & expand our club. We're in the process of planning some good meetings; we'll have a couple of our usual bourse & auction events. We'll also have our traditional summer picnic &, of course in December, we'll have another Christmas dinner. I hope everyone who came

enjoyed the way we tried it this year. I thought it was wonderful.

I believe it's really important to continually learn. So this year, I'd like to have a speaker or two come & educate us on a variety of numismatic topics. Perhaps we could learn about the coins and money used by the Confederate States of America. Or maybe we could find someone to speak to us about the S.S. Central America. On another evening, perhaps we could learn more about Utah tokens or Ancient Greek/Roman coins. Really when you think about it, there are so many interesting numismatic topics

that there are plenty of reasons to never miss a meeting & learn something along the way!

Also, don't forget that we have a coin show which will be taking place towards the end of the month. What a great opportunity to find an item or two for your collection. I know that I'm looking forward to attending the show.

Thanks for making the UNS so much fun in 2009. Remember to bring a guest or two if you can. See you at our next meeting.

Happy 2010!
Tom

January Meeting Details.

Meetings - Second Tuesday of each month (Jan. 12th)

Time - 7:00 P.M.

Location - Columbus Community Center; 2531 South 400 East, SLC

Greetings - Tom Jensen

Mini Exhibit - TBA

News & Views - TBA

Coin Quiz - TBA

Refreshments- TBA

1936 Canada Cent



Look Closely!

Can you identify this coin? Is there anything special?

Below are two different 1870 Canadian halves.

One is worth \$200,000, the other \$50,000. Do you know why?



The above three coins will be auctioned Jan. 3rd in New York City by Heritage Auction Galleries.

Interesting Coin of the Month

1851-O Seated Dollar



The 1851-O silver dollar is one of the least known coins reported. Many numismatists are unaware of its existence as it is not listed in the 'Red Book' and virtually all other numismatic publications make no reference of it. It is, however, a U.S. coin, struck at the mint but almost assuredly under suspicious circumstances. One thing you will immediately notice is the very weak 'O' mintmark. There are several possibilities which may have led to its creation. One possibility is that it was overstruck on a previously struck dollar from New Orleans during an attempt to re-strike rare 1851 dollars. Another possibility is that it was a midnight shift creation for whatever purposes of those who created it. Nonetheless, it is a unique rarity which the actual reasons or details of its creation have been lost in time forever.

UNS Program for January's Meeting

This month we will be swearing in the officers and board members. The remaining program is to be announced.

Prizes & Buy of the Month

This month's buy is:

- Proof Sets (Various Years)

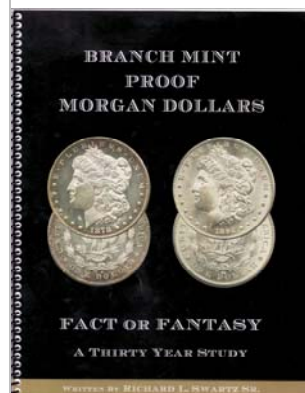


The above proof will not be included in our buy of the month but is part of a complete run of proof sets from 1856 to 1952 being auctioned at FUN this month. Yes, a complete run from 1856, an amazing collection! View them on the Heritage web site, HA.com.

Prizes of the Month –

2005 Chief Justice Marshall set
1958 Washington Quarter
1928 Standing Liberty Quarter
1989 Proof set
Mini coins
2009 Copper UNS
2003 First Flight Dollar BU
2004 Westward Journey 5 cent set
2003 Christmas medal
1910 Barber dime
1822 Replica \$5 gold
2005 Kansas Proof quarter
UNS Uni-face copper
1913 Replica nickel medal
2009 Christmas medal

1971 IKE 40% Dollar (**Jr. Prize**)
1887 O Morgan Dol. (**Member Prize**)
1964 Pf. Set (**Promptness Prize**)



Book Reviews

There are two book reviews for January. I purchased each of these books in December by mail order as they were announced in trade publications. The proof Morgan book was \$50 postpaid and the Seated Half book was \$45 plus \$5 postage. To begin with I thought the Morgan proof book was a disappointment. It consists of only 55 pages. It does list and picture 32 different possible branch mint Morgan dollars. The pictures, although in color, are in my opinion substandard and in some cases not even a picture of the actual proof or disputed proof. For 30 years of study there is actually very little information included. If this is your specialty stay with information presently on the internet, \$50 is just way too much for a book with limited information.

Now as to the other book on die varieties on San Francisco Liberty Seated Halves, I found it to be an amazing study on the subject. It consists of 309 pages and is profusely illustrated with high quality b&w photos on quality heavy stock paper. Virtually every possible die anomaly is pictured and described. I realize that not everyone is as interested as I am in this series but if there is anything you wish to know about the subject of S.F. Seated Halves I can't imagine a more in-depth study on the subject. This is a great companion to the Wiley/Bugert book on Seated Halves published a decade ago. I hope he has a sequel planned for the Philadelphia, New Orleans and Carson City mints.





Coin Quiz & Trivia

- Some 1879-CC silver dollars:
 - Show traces on an overdate
 - Have 8 Tailfeathers
 - Have a blundered mintmark
 - Were distributed in Ireland
- The 1886 nickel three-cent piece:
 - Is the last dated coin in the series
 - Was never minted
 - Was a Proof-only issue
 - Had a mintage of 4,790 coins
- Which of the following coins was not legal tender from 1876 until 1965?
 - 1866 With Rays Nickel
 - 1854 Silver 3-cent
 - 1875-CC Trade Dollar
 - 1853 No Arrows Quarter Dollar
- A variety known as the "Ugly Head" is a rarity of particular interest to the collector of:
 - Colonial Washington Pieces
 - Large Cent Collectors
 - Pattern Collectors
 - CA Fractional Gold Collectors
- The 1837 "half cent" listed in the section for that denom. in the *Guide Book* is actually a:
 - Pattern Coin
 - Hard Times Token
 - Regular Issue Half Cent
 - Privately issued restrike

Answers to last month's questions.

1) 1926-D 25c 2) Sheldon 3) Zerbe 4) 1863 5) 1886

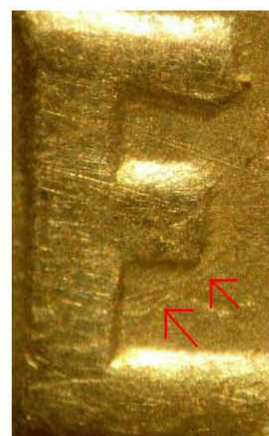
Young Numismatist's (Word Search)

M I F T H A R G R R C H R D Y S E P R P
 E T A T S V I D S N T I L E P Q N M P U
 B E U I U V A K H U O E T T U L X I I E
 B A B U L L I O N V K U R A R A R E O D
 T Y L E R Y J E M C E Y O L M N Q U C C
 Y C N E R R U C I M N T T U C S Z J N B
 I W P R Z C E N T H S N C C Y B I K X E
 Y E E I W W T S Y T N E E R T K V M A W
 M H T X C N E I K S U I L I K E A S U U
 C X H O I K E B W T L C L C X S S W S N
 Y U V M N S W I N R D N O N I R Q I H P
 P B U F F A L O D K Q A C U P E H H H R
 A Q P D R E T R A U Q F O F J V Q A E O
 U F L W D L O G O D B M O A D B B Z L O
 G V F X C J R K R Z E R I O O O W I A F
 U G X Y Z E O Z X R E P L D Z B U F V W
 W E X K V J Y F C I E L B U O D M K I E
 P R T L K Z Q U G W A L K I N G X B Z H
 Q S I A G D R N F R N Y I H Q Q P F X R
 U S L D D Y E V I T A R O M E M M O C N

ANCIENT BUFFALO BULLION CENT CHERRY COLLECTOR COMMEMORATIVE CURRENCY DATE DIE DIME DOLLAR
 DOUBLE FOREIGN GOLD HALF JOHN MERCURY MINT NICKEL NOTE NUMISMATIC OBVERSE PICK PROOF QUARTER
 RARE SET SILVER STATE TOKENS TYLER UNCIRCULATED US WALKING WEB

20th Annual
**Wasatch
 Winter
 COIN SHOW**
 Friday, January 29th, 2010
 Saturday, January 30th, 2010
 Salt Lake Community College's
 Miller Training Center
 9750 South 300 West - Sandy, Utah
 Free Drawing for
 American Eagle 1/10 oz. Gold
 Friday-Saturday 10am to 7pm
Featuring
 Coins, Currency, Medals, Tokens & Hand Held Collectibles
 For more information call **801-467-8636**
 Admission - \$3.00 Family - \$5.00
 Free to Coin Club Members
WITH CARD
 One Dollar QEE with Post Card

Counterfeit Corner



Pick Up Point

Mintmark

Frequency Encountered
Common

Identification Difficulty
Difficult

Value
Moderate

Fake 1928 Peace dollars are often seen as 1928-S coins with a removed mintmark. Check the mintmark area carefully when purchasing this coin.

There were three different obverse dies used in San Francisco in 1928, each with a subtle diagnostic. 1) A die scratch from the B in LIBERTY extending across the ray. 2) Minor die lines in the lower portion of the E and 3) a tiny die line in the hair of liberty. All three diagnostics may be difficult to see on many examples.

Feature Article – California Fractional Gold

When one speaks of California fractional gold two questions come to mind. First, did this coinage actually circulate, and second, how does one determine if their coin is an authentic coin, one made to deceive collectors, or simply a reproduced gold plated token. To answer the second question first California fractional gold is categorized into three periods as per the Breen/Gillo reference book on the subject. Period 1 consists of coins struck from 1852-1857, Period 2 covers the years 1858-1882. They also reference a Period 3 which essentially covers fantasy pieces and coins created to deceive collectors. This period 3 loosely covers the years 1900-2000. The secret service ruled in 1883 that all small gold pieces resembling any U.S. gold dollar violated the law which put an end to the manufacture of fractional gold. Originally, all fractional gold coins carried the denomination such as Dollar or Cents. This practice was outlawed in 1864 but not enforced until 1882 or at the end of Period 2 pieces. Therefore, the first diagnostic for a real fractional gold coin is that the denomination will be indicated by the word 'Dollar,' 'Dol.,' 'D,' (the latter in the case of 'Half D.')

or use the word Cents in the case of 25 or 50 cent coins. Also a fraction such as $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ is often used in conjunction with one of the aforementioned dollar abbreviations. Fantasy pieces may use $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{4}$ but will not use any form of dollar or cents to identify the value. This way of identifying the denomination is very common on fantasy pieces, many of which also carry a depiction of the California bear. These are almost always gold plated base metal or in some cases not even gold plated. Genuine fractional gold will virtually always carry a depiction of Liberty or an Indian on one side, any coin without should be immediately suspect. One well known exception is the 'Defiant Eagle' 25 cents (BG-220), it depicts a perched eagle above the date and is rare. Another is the 1853 'Arms of California' half dollar. (BG-435) There are also several coins bearing the head of Washington. Over 1,300 different California fractional gold coins are known, all of which are collectable, so if you plan to collect any you should educate yourself and acquire reference material on the subject. Now as to the first question, did they circulate? First, remember that none of these coins were struck by the mint in San Francisco, or any other government establishment. Even for period 1 pieces they were manufactured by private individuals and/or jewelers. It was a fact that during the gold rush there was an acute shortage of small coins available in California and there is documentation which suggests that Period 1 fractional gold coins did circulate as specie, especially in San Francisco probably until about 1859. After that the S.F. mint which had been producing minor coinage since 1855 was able to supply to a limited extent small denomination coins for local commerce. Period 2 coins were simply made as souvenirs, tokens, or mementos by a large number of jewelers to accommodate travelers with a small piece of gold rush history. They are made of gold and are highly collected for their many varieties. This is a vast subject and this is about all that can be said on a single page. California fractional gold can be a fascinating subject and contains a wealth of history regarding the gold rush of the 1850's and beyond.

PICTURED BELOW ARE FOUR GENUINE EXAMPLES OF CALIF FRACTIONAL GOLD



DOUGLAS NYHOLM



Identify This Coin

Can you identify the coin pictured above? This is another easy one. You should be able to identify both the denomination and date from this picture.

Good Luck!

[Last month's coin was an 1912-S Liberty nickel. The only San Francisco minted Liberty nickel as shown by the mintmark.]

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If you are looking to sell you collection please give us a call! We also trade and sell coins. We love to help our customers with coins they need, so if you have a want list we would be happy to help you out. We've been in the coin business for 45 years.

Military Payment Certificates

Many of us have found or come across various 'MPC' notes and generally they sell for just a few dollars in circulated condition, a bit higher if uncirculated. But did you know that some sell in the hundreds of dollars and look almost exactly like the low priced common note. Just like star notes in the Federal currency issues, there were MPC notes issued as what is termed "Replacement Notes." These are usually quite rare and highly collectable with many series existing with less than 10 known. They do not have a star like Federal currency but are identified by the lack of a suffix letter in the serial number. Check your notes, you might have a treasure and not know it.

This is a normal note
Note the "E" prefix and suffix.



This is a replacement note.
There is an "A" Prefix only.



Help Grow Our Membership!

If you know of someone who would like to receive a sample UNS Newsletter let us know.

Utah Numismatic Society

P.O. Box 65064
Salt Lake City, UT
84165

E-mail

douglas.nyholm@comcast.net

*Your input,
suggestions and
written articles are
always appreciated*



Comments, Suggestions,
and articles should be
submitted to:

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Membership Form

Application for membership in the Utah Numismatic Society / UNS

Name(s) of applicant(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

How would you like to receive the newsletter? ☐ Email / Preferred ☐ Postal Mail

Sponsor: _____

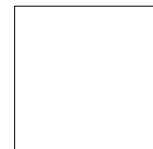
When & Where we meet –
Columbus Community Center Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM
2531 South 400 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Annual Dues:

☐ Family \$25 ☐ Adult (18 and older) \$15 ☐ Junior \$5

Individual Lifetime Memberships are \$250.00. There is no family Lifetime Membership

UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 65054
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